

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-9, 15-17, 27, and 29 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 10-13, 18-26, and 28 are canceled by the present response without prejudice.

The present response is submitted to place the present application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. Specifically, in the Office Action claims 5, 15, 27, and 29 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that indication of the allowable subject matter.

By the present response each of claims 5, 15, 27, and 29 is amended to be rewritten in independent form. Thereby, those claims are believed to be allowable.

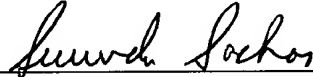
Applicants also note the other pending claims all depend from one of now independent claims 5, 15, 17, and 29. In that respect the outstanding Office Action contained inconsistencies in addressing certain dependent claims. For example, in the Office Action dependent claims 6-9 were rejected, but each of claims 6-9 depends from independent claim 5, which was noted as allowable. As noted above, independent claim 5 is now rewritten in independent form and is believed to be allowable, and thereby claims 6-9 dependent on now independent claim 5 are also believed to be allowable. Similarly, the other pending dependent claims now depend from one of the rewritten independent claims, and thus each of the currently pending dependent claims is believed to be allowable.

In summary, by the present response each of the pending claims is believed to recite subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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